Agreement with Norwegian Company on Seismic Survey

407. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into an agreement with PGS Ocean Botom Seismic, Norwegian Company for a dimensional ocean bottom cable technique seismic survey over Mumbai High;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the project is proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. has awarded a contract to M/s. PGS OBS, Norway on 20.6.1997 for 3D acquisition, processing and interpretation work in the Mumbai High at a value of US$ 49.73 million.

(c) The project is to be completed by 31.10.98.

Joint Venture for Neelam Oilfield

408. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to form a joint venture for the Neelam Oil field;

(b) if so, whether ONGC officers have expressed strong reservations over this decision;

(c) the grounds on which they have opposed the decision; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (d) No decision has been taken in this regard.

(b) and (c) Officers Association of ONGC during a meeting with management have shown their reservation/resentment on the apprehended move to hand over Neelam field to JVC on the following grounds:

(i) Neelam field has already been identified and taken by management as pilot project as part of transformation by M/s Mckinsey and Company.

(ii) Association should be taken into confidence before handing over Neelam Field.

(iii) In the past while handing over proven fields like Panna, Mukta, Ravva ONGC was deprived from getting the reimbursement of past cost for such fields, which was incurred by ONGC towards exploration, delineation and development.

(iv) Estimation of reserves, is a dynamic process and estimates worked out cannot be changed on daily basis. The online simulation is meant for monitoring the performance of the producing assets and thus the simultaneous results should be taken as early warning to provide timely corrective measures for non-optimised production. Such results of simulation/ production, if highlighted as periodically as now done, would lead only to wrong signals to outsiders.

(v) The reason given time and again, that the discovered fields are being handed over to the JVC for maximising ultimate recovery by using innovative techniques, but no so called innovative techniques have been used, in any of the fields which are under JVC's in reality.

Supply of Underweight Gas Cylinders

409. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of